

Remarks

Claims 1-13, 15-28, 30, 33, and 42-52 have been canceled, claims 14, 31, 34, and 36-41 have been amended, and claims 53-55 have been added. Claims 14, 29, 31, 32, 34-41 and 53-55 are pending. Applicant respectfully acknowledges that claims 28-41 contain allowable subject matter.

§ 112 Rejections

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Because claim 17 has been canceled, this rejection is moot.

§ 102 and § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tetenbaum et al (U.S. 4,499,233). Because claims 1-13 have been canceled, this rejection is moot.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim et al (U.S. 4,180,491). Because claims 1-13 have been canceled, this rejection is moot.

Claims 14, 15, 18, 19, and 21-27 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugawara et al (U.S. 4,240,943). Claims 15, 18, 19, and 21-27 have been canceled, so the rejection of these claims is moot. Claim 14 has been amended to identify the specific nature of the stainblocker as was previously defined in dependent claims 28, 30, and 33, now canceled. Because claims 28, 30, and 33 were indicated to contain allowable subject matter, claim 14, as amended, is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 17 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugawara in view of either Tetenbaum or Kim. Because claims 17 and 20 have been canceled, this rejection is moot.

Because independent claim 14 has been amended to include the subject matter previously indicated to be allowable, claim 14 is now believed to be patentable over the cited references.

The remaining dependent claims, as depending from allowable claims, are also deemed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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